



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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India: Countries that do not require Indian citizens to obtain an entry visa; of these countries, which are signatories to the United Nations' 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and have a refugee determination system
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa

Sources indicate that there are four countries that do not require tourist visas for Indian citizens, are signatories to the 1951 *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (Geneva Convention) and have refugee determination systems:

Jamaica	Haiti	Guatemala	Ecuador
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(VisasforIndians n.d.b; US 11 Mar. 2010a, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010b, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010c, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010d, Sec. 2d)

Countries That Do not Require Entry Visas for Indians

According to VisasforIndians, a website providing visa and travel information for Indian citizens (VisasforIndians n.d.a), the following countries do not require tourist visas for Indians residing in India:

Bhutan	Cook Islands	Dominica	Ecuador
Fiji	Grenada	Guatemala	Haiti
Hong Kong	Jamaica	Jordan	Macau
Maldives	Mauritius	Micronesia	Montserrat
Nepal	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Samoa
Seychelles	Sri Lanka	Vanuatu	-

(VisasforIndians n.d.b)

Signatories of the 1951 Geneva Convention

Of the countries not requiring an entry visa, the following are listed as signatories to the UN Geneva Convention:

Dominica	Ecuador	Fiji	Guatemala
Haiti	Jamaica	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Samoa	Seychelles	-	-
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(UN 1 Oct. 2008)

Countries Without Refugee Determination Systems

The United States (US) Department of State's *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2009* indicates that the following countries have not developed refugee determination systems:

Dominica	Fiji	Samoa
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Seychelles

(US 11 Mar. 2010e, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar 2010f, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010g, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010h, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010i, Sec. 2d; *ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010j, Sec. 2d)

Countries with Refugee Determination Systems

Country Reports 2009 indicates that Jamaica has a refugee determination system (*ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010c, Sec. 2d) and that although Haiti has a system, it does not routinely grant asylum (*ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010d, Sec. 2d). In its section on Guatemala, *Country Reports 2009* notes that the country has a refugee determination system, and, in 2009, received six asylum requests and granted protection to one person (*ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010b, Sec. 2d).

Sources indicate that Ecuador has a refugee determination system and that, in 2009, it granted refugee protection to more than 21,000 people who were primarily from Colombia (*ibid.* 11 Mar. 2010a, Sec. 2d; USCRI 2009). *Country Reports 2009* states that there were 45,820 recognized refugees in Ecuador and that, in 2008, UNHCR and state officials estimated that there were an additional 135,000 people in need of protection, of whom approximately 68,000 were not registered in the system (US 11 Mar. 2010a, Sec. 2d). The US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants states that most of Ecuador's asylum applicants are Colombian, but that there are also some from Peru, Cuba, Haiti, Russia, Iraq, Ghana, Somalia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Cameroon and Armenia (USCRI 2009).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

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Additional Sources Consulted

Internet sites, including: Embassy of Ecuador, Ottawa; VisaHQ.com.

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